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by Jebb

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P U B L I C E X A M I N A T I O N S.

Cambridge, May 11, 1774.

TH E Writer of this Paper is justly sensible of the Obligations, which every Member of the University is under to those worthy Persons, who lately laboured with so much Assiduity in the Public Service. His general Approbation of the Measures, recommended by them, was testified by his Suffrage in their favour. And he is still persuaded, that, if they had obtained the Sanction of the Senate, they would have promoted the Improvement of our British Youth in every Part of useful Literature, and thereby have redounded to the Credit, and lasting Advantage of this Place. The Plan, which he now suggests, is chiefly offered with a view of conciliating the favourable Attention of those, who appeared most dissatisfied with the Measures proposed by the late Syndicate; and he shall think himself happy, if what is here submitted with all Deference to the Judgment of the University shall, in the remotest Degree, conduce to that Reformation in our Discipline, which the Public Voice so importunately requires at our Hands.

The Separation of the Orders, the Penalty of Expulsion in Case of Non-Attendance, the Requisition of a greater Degree of Proficiency in Literature, than is provided for by the Public Lectures in each Society, together with the Variety of Matter contained in each of the late Graces, have been supposed by many Persons to be the main Reasons of their Rejection; the Author of the present Address therefore begs leave to lay before the University a few distinct Propositions, which, if they should not have the good Fortune to be altogether approved, may yet possibly convince his Readers, that the most material Objections to Public Examinations may be happily obviated upon a future Opportunity.

He founds his System upon the following Principle, viz. That the Youth of this Place have, in general, sufficient Means of Information afforded to them by the Public Tutors; but that something is wanted, in order to secure a proper Degree of Attention to the present Course of College Lectures.

With a View of effecting this desirable Purpose, it is proposed,

I. That a Public Examination of such Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners, as have been admitted since the Friday, next after the Commencement 1773, or shall be admitted before or upon the Friday, next after the Commencement 1774, be held in November 1775.

been admitted into the Friday, next after the Commencement 1773, or shall be admitted before or upon the Friday, next after the Commencement 1774, be held in November 1775.

III. That these Examinations be held at the same Time, viz. upon the third Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in November 1775, from Nine to Twelve in the Mornings, and from Three to Six in the Afternoons of the Monday and Tuesday.

IV. That each Person, attending these Examinations, be examined in the Latin and Greek Classics, and the Elements of Geometry, and Algebra.

V. That each Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, admitted as above, be subjected to one other Public Examination, and that such Examination be held upon the fourth Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in November 1776, from Nine to Twelve in the Mornings, and from Three to Six in the Afternoons of the Monday and Tuesday.

VI. That each Person attending this Examination, be examined in Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, Natural Philosophy, and Modern History.

VII. That, at the *second* Examination of the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners in November 1776, the Examiners hereafter to be appointed declare, in a Writing to be delivered to the Vicechancellor, which of the Persons, then examined, appear upon the whole to be the best Scholars, not distinguishing more than a third Part of each Year, and placing the Persons so distinguished, according to their respective Order of Merit. — That such Declaration be published by the Vicechancellor to the Senate at the next following Congregation, and Copies thereof transmitted by him to the Chancellor of the University, and sent to each College.

VIII. That any Nobleman or Fellow-Commoner, having been resident, who shall absent himself from the First of these Examinations, without sufficient Reason, shall be publicly Admonished, or subjected to such other Censure, short of Rustication, as the Majority of the Heads of Houses then resident shall think the Case deserves.

IX. That every Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, who shall absent himself from the Second of these Examinations, or any Pensioner or Sizar, who shall absent himself from the First, without sufficient Reason, shall be esteemed as lying under an Incapacity of proceeding to a Degree; and that no Reason in any Case shall be judged sufficient which is not certified by the Master or Locum-tenens of the College, and approved by the major Part of the Vicechancellor and Heads of Houses then resident.

X. That the same Course be observed in the Case of all the Academic Youth, who shall be admitted in each succeeding Year.

If this Plan were put in Execution, it is humbly conceived, that the Fellow-Commoners and Pensioners may continue to attend the same Public Lectures;—that it would correspond with the general Course of Lectures, given at present in every College, during the first and second Years of Residence;—and that it would not materially interfere with the Scheme of Examinations now established at St. John's.

the Introduction of Modern History, in the second Examination of Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners, would not create any considerable Addition of Trouble, either to the Tutor or the Pupil; as nothing more is proposed by an Examination in this Branch of Polite Literature, than the securing the Attention of Youth to those Opportunities of Improvement; which are now very generally afforded to the Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, in consequence of the late Institution of Public Lectures on this interesting Subject.

With respect to the Pensioners and Sizars, it is submitted to the Judgment of the Senate, whether the Application of the Student to the Course, prescribed for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, could be endangered by an Examination, intended to take Place above two Years before the Examination for such Degree, and of which the Elements of Algebra and Geometry are to form a Part.

The Admission Dates, contained in the first and second Propositions, are not essential to the Plan.

With regard to the Examinations mentioned in the first four Propositions, it does not appear that any bad Consequences would ensue, if some honorary Rewards were proposed, as Encouragements to such of the Youth, as should excel at this Time of Trial. However, as each Student will afterwards have an Opportunity of appearing with Honour, viz. the Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner in the following November, the Pensioner and Sizar at the Time of the Bachelor's Degree, and as the Names of those, who have acquitted themselves to the Satisfaction of their Examiners, will generally be known in the University, such Distinctions may not appear absolutely necessary: if this should be the Case, many Objections, urged against the joining of all the Orders of our Youth in the same Examination, will be removed.

The Censures in case of Non-Attendance are proposed with Diffidence. It appears probable, that, in a Case of this Kind, even milder than those here mentioned would suffice.

If it appear to the Writer of this Paper, that the Scheme now proposed meets with any Attention from the University, he will hereafter subjoin such further Observations, as Circumstances seem to require. He highly approves the Resolutions of the Syndicate relating to the Mode of appointing the Examiners: but some Alterations will be necessary in this particular, if it is judged necessary that there should be Alterations in their general Plan. He has only further to observe, that, with regard to the Manner of Examining, he finds himself obliged to differ in this, as well as in some other Points, from the very candid Author of a Proposal, which was lately circulated in the University. He prefers that Form of Public Examination which the Syndicate proposed, and which is pursued with so much Success at the Time of the Bachelor's Degree. But he submits his Opinion as well in this, as in every other particular, to the Judgment of the Public, requesting only, that what he offers with a good Intention may be received with Candour; having no other wish, than that those Measures, which shall appear most conducive to the general Welfare, may finally prevail.



